

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 11 were pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended and claims 2 to 5 and 8 to 11 have been canceled. New claims 12 to 17 have been added and constitute no new matter. Claims 1, 7 and 12 to 17 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include matter that the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Therefore Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has indicated that dependent claims 2 to 5 and 8 to 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 2. New claims 12 to 14 correspond to dependent claims 3 to 5 respectively, and now include all the limitations of the base claim. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 8. New claims 15 to 17 correspond to dependent claims 9 to 11 respectively, and now include all of the limitations of the base claim.

Conclusion

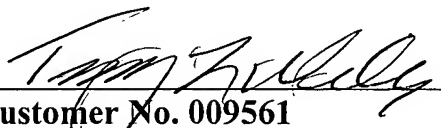
In view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections, and passage of the case to issue is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-2312. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/20/05

By


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